

RGP-0062



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPELLANTS: Price et al.)
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/916,116) Group Art Unit: 1771
FILED: July 26, 2001) Examiner: Victor S. Chang
FOR: COMPRESSIBLE FOAM TAPES)
AND METHOD OF)
MANUFACTURE THEREOF)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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A P P E A L B R I E F

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest in this appeal is World Properties Inc. Ownership by World Properties Inc. is established by assignment document recorded for this application on October 1, 2001 on Reel/Frame 012213/0389.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no other related appeals or interferences known to Appellants, Appellants' legal representatives, or assignee which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 and 34-37 are pending in the application. All of the pending claims stand rejected. Claims 1-19 and 34-37, as amended by an Amendment After Final that accompanies this brief, are set forth in Appendix A. Claims 1-19 and 34-37 as pending without entry of the Amendment After Final are set forth in Appendix B. Appellants hereby appeal the final rejection of Claims 1-19 and 34-37.

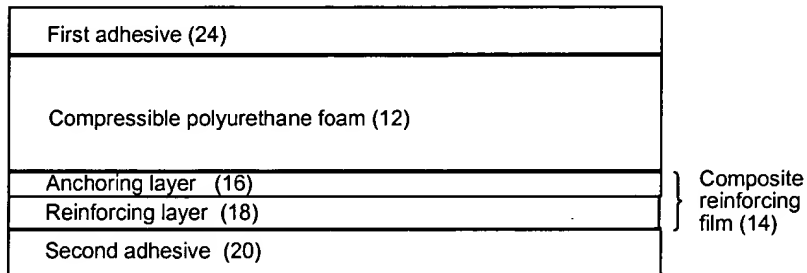
IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment After Final is being submitted with this Appeal Brief. Claims 1-19 and 34-37, as amended by an Amendment After Final that accompanies this brief, are set forth in Appendix A. Claims 1-19 and 34-37 as pending without entry of the Amendment After Final are set forth in Appendix B.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to an improved foam cushion tape for use in flexographic printing (page 1, lines 1-3). The tapes are used to adhere printing plates to printing cylinders (page 1, lines 10).

As set forth at page 4, line 14 to page 6, line 20 and shown in Figure 1 of the specification, the tape comprises a compressible polyurethane foam layer 12. A first adhesive 24 is disposed on one side of the polyurethane foam layer 12, and a composite reinforcing film 14 is disposed on the other side of the polyurethane foam layer 12. The composite reinforcing film 14 comprises an anchoring layer 16 and a reinforcing layer 18, wherein the anchoring layer 16 is in contact with the polyurethane foam 12. A second adhesive layer 24 is disposed on the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film. The elements of the invention as set forth in Claim 1 are illustrated below.



A problem that has been encountered with polyurethane flexographic tapes in use has been that upon removal of the printing plate from the cylinder, the tape delaminates, rather than being remove cleanly with the printing plate (page 2, lines 10-12). The delamination is the result of tearing of the reinforcing layer ("weak cohesive strength" of the reinforcing layer, page 2, lines 10-12). Unexpectedly, use of an anchoring layer between the reinforcing layer and the foam layer solves the delamination problem.

VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

Claims 1-19 and 34-37 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In addition, claims 1-19 and 34-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being allegedly unpatentable over Appellants' admission in view of Birchall et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,839,078.

VII. ARGUMENT

A. As amended, claims 1-19 and 34-37 are not indefinite under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-19 and 34-37 stand rejected 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As suggested by the Examiner, independent claims 1, 13, and 17 have been amended to incorporate the phrase "for flexographic printing" into the preamble. It is therefore believed that upon entry of the Amendment After Final, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-19 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is appropriate.

B. Claims 1-19 and 34-37 Are Patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Appellants' admission either individually or in view of Birchall et al., U.S. Patent No. 3,839,078.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-19 and 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly unpatentable over Appellants' admission either individually or in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,839,078 to Birchall et al. (hereinafter "Birchall.")

According to the Examiner, Applicants have admitted that flexographic tapes comprising a foam layer, a reinforcing layer, and a first and second adhesive layers were

known in the art. (Office Action dated 10/25/2002, Paper No. 6, p. 3.) The Examiner further takes Official Notice that including an anchoring or tie layer in a laminated polymer structure is old and well known. (Office Action dated 10/25/2002, Paper No. 6, pp. 3-4.)

In the alternative, it is the Examiner's position that Birchall teaches that it is common practice to use an adhesion promoting layer, commonly referred to as 'anchor' coating, such that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the admitted prior art with an anchor layer, motivated by the desire to improve the adhesion between the laminate layers. (Office Action dated 10/25/2002, Paper No. 6, p. 4; Office Action dated 7/16/2004, p. 4; *citing* Birchall at column 22, lines 13.)

Appellants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention that the "common" use of anchor layers to provide enhanced adhesion between layers would have provided an adequate motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art in the present instance. In the present case the adhesion between layers was more than adequate for the intended purpose of the tape.

As stated in the specification, and shown in the Declaration of Brett Kilhenny, failure of the claimed foam cushion tapes upon removal from a drum was not due to insufficient adhesion between the polyurethane foam and the reinforcing layer. It was due, instead, to weak cohesive strength of the reinforcing layer itself. In other words, the bond between the polyurethane foam and the reinforcing layer was so strong that when a foam cushion tape is removed from a drum, the reinforcing layer fails before the bond fails.¹

Where no need exists to provide enhanced adhesion, there is no motivation to modify an article to provide enhanced adhesion. Such motivation is especially absent where the modification would result in additional expense and/or manufacturing time. Thus, neither the general knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art nor Birchall provide sufficient motivation to add a layer intended to increase adhesion to the present flexographic tape.

The reason for the Examiner's rejection appears to be Appellant's use of the term "anchoring" to label the layer that is present between the reinforcing film and the polyurethane

¹ Appellants disagree with the Examiner's assertion that Appellants' argument that "an improvement in bond strength is not needed" clearly contradicts the claimed elements being an adhesively laminated product. (Final Office Action, mailed 7-16-04, page 5, lines 2-4.) For the particular use at hand (flexographic tapes), the adhesive strength between the foam and the reinforcing layer was clearly sufficient.

foam. Applicants agree that Birchall teaches that it is common to use ‘anchor’ layers to promote adhesion between a film substrate and a superstrate. (Birchall, col. 22, lines 5-14) However, the purpose of the present “anchoring” layer is to prevent cohesive failure of the reinforcing film, rather than to increase the adhesion between a substrate and a superstrate. (The Examiner has admitted that the Declaration dated July 3, 2003 appears persuasive that the failure mechanism is “cohesive failure” at the surface of the anchoring layer (the PET film). (Office Action dated 7/24/2003, page 2, lines 5-6)). The fact that “anchoring” layer of the present invention and the ‘anchor’ layer of Birchall happen to have been given the same name does not mean that they are the same layer, used for the same purpose.

This is illustrated by reference to claims 5-6, 13-19, 34, and 36-37 of the instant application. These claims specify that the anchoring layer may be a polyvinylidene chloride, polyurethane, copolyester, or nylon. Birchall, in contrast, discloses use of materials such as “isocyanate-ended polyurethane resin, a phenol-formaldehyde resin or a vinylidene-chloride-alkyl acrylate copolymer resin” as being suitable for an anchor layer. The reason that these materials are suitable is because they have reactive groups that promote adhesion between a substrate and a superstrate. The isocyanate ends of the polyurethane resin and the alkyl acrylate copolymers of the polyvinylidene polymer will react with surface groups on the substrate and/or superstrate, thereby providing a chemical bond between the substrate, anchor layer, and superstrate. (Phenol-formaldehyde resins also have reactive groups available for bonding.) The materials used in the present invention, in contrast, are “polyurethanes” and “polyvinylidene chloride.” These are not the same as “isocyanate-ended polyurethane resin” or “a vinylidene-chloride-alkyl acrylate copolymer resin.” They are derived from the same units as the materials of Birchall, but they are not the same materials because they are not synthesized to have reactive groups available for bonding to a substrate and superstrate.

Thus, with respect to claims 5-6, 13-19, 34, and 36-37, the combination of any admitted prior art and Birchall fails to disclose each of the elements of the claims. In particular, Birchall fails to teach or suggest the recited polymers used as an anchoring layer. Such polymers would not have been obvious over Birchall, because they lack the presence of the reactive groups that render the polymers of Birchall adhesive. With respect to claims 1-19

and 34-37, despite the use of the same term to describe the “anchoring” layer of the present claims and the ‘anchor’ layer in Birchall, the claimed layers are not the same as those described as being ‘commonly used’ in Birchall. One of ordinary skill in the art would simply have had no motivation use an adhesion-increasing layer where no increase in adhesion was needed. Reversal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is therefore requested.

Assuming *arguendo* that the Examiner has presented a *prima facie* case (which the Appellants do not concede, especially as to claims 5-6, 13-19, 34, and 36-37), it is believed that the unexpected results shown in the Specification and Declaration of Brett Kilhenny are sufficient to overcome such case.

Nothing within the knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art or Birchall indicates that cohesive failure of a reinforcing layer may be prevented by use of an adhesion-promoting layer. Adhesion-promoting layers as disclosed by Birchall are formed from materials having reactive groups that will chemically bond to a substrate and superstrate. Such bonding presumably occurs at the surface of the superstrate and substrate. Here, it has been found that an anchoring layer disposed between a polyurethane foam and a reinforcing layer serves to prevent cohesive failure of the anchoring layer during removal of the printing plate from the drum. Such clean removal greatly improves the speed of the manufacturing process. Where delamination is due to the characteristics of one of the layers rather than the bond between the layers, it is unexpected that the presence of a layer used to improve bond would prevent delamination.

The Examiner has stated that this effect is merely an inherent advantage arising from an obvious combination. In particular, the Examiner has stated that since Birchall teaches all of the elements of the anchor layer as claimed, any improved properties are “also inherently disclosed” by Birchall. (Office Action dated 7/16/2004, p. 5.)

First, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has inappropriately used the doctrine of inherency in putting forth a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a). The courts have repeatedly made the distinction that “the inherency of an advantage and its obviousness are entirely different questions. That which may be inherent is not necessarily known.

Obviousness cannot be predicated on what is unknown.” *In re Spormann*, 150 U.S.P.Q. 449, 452, (CCPA, 1966), citing *In re Adams*, 53 CCPA 996, 356 F.2d 998, 148 U.S.P.Q. 742.

“Further it confuses anticipation by inherency, i.e., lack of novelty, with obviousness, which though anticipation is the epitome of obviousness, are separate and distinct concepts.” *Jones et al. v. Hardy*, 220 U.S.P.Q. 1021, 1025 (CCPA, 1984) citing *In re Pearson*, 494 F.2d 1399, 181 U.S.P.Q. 641 (CCPA, 1974); *In re Oelrich*, 666 F.2d 578, 212 U.S.P.Q. 323 (CCPA, 1981). “The examiner should be aware that inherency and obviousness are distinct concepts.” *Ex parte GPAC Inc.*, 29 U.S.P.Q.2d 1401, 1415, n. 15, citing *In re Naylor*, 369 F.2d 765, 152 U.S.P.Q. 106 (CCPA 1966); *In re Henderson*, 348 F.2d 550, 146 U.S.P.Q. 372 (CCPA 1965). “The theory of inherency is normally reserved for rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.” *In re Grasseli*, 318 U.S.P.Q. 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Withdrawal of the rejection of obviousness based on the “inherency” of the unexpected results is therefore respectfully requested.

Second, there is no evidence that the anchor layers disclosed in Birchall would, in fact, inherently produce the observed unexpected results. An inherent feature necessarily flows from the teachings of the prior art. *Ex parte Levy*, 17 U.S.P.Q.2d 1461, 1464 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1990); *In re Oelrich*, 666 F.2d 578, 581, 212 U.S.P.Q. 323, 326 (C.C.P.A. 1981). A finding of inherency cannot be made where it flows as simply a possible conclusion from the teachings of the prior art. Birchall merely teaches that the disclosed anchoring layers can be used to improve adhesion between “organic plastic films,” such as those used in packaging or as a photographic film base, together with “superstrates” such as a heat-sealable coating (col. 21, lines 59-68). The Examiner has provided no technical or factual grounds for any assertion that use of the adhesion-promoting layers used in Birchall would necessarily produce results obtained herein with polyurethane foams, particularly in combination with the anchoring layers and reinforcing layers of claims 5-6, 13-19, 34, and 36-37. Reversal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is therefore requested.

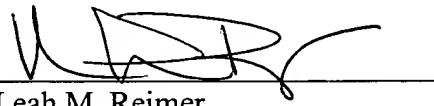
VIII. CONCLUSION

In summary, Claims 1-19 and 34-37 are patentable over the art of record for the reasons cited above. Appellants respectfully submit that all of the claims are allowable and the application is in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges with respect to this Appeal, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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**IX. APPENDIX A: CLAIMS ON APPEAL WITH ENTRY OF AMENDMENT
AFTER FINAL CO-FILED WITH THIS BRIEF**

1. A foam cushion tape for flexographic printing, comprising
a compressible polyurethane foam layer
having a first side and an opposite second side;
a composite reinforcing film comprising an anchoring layer having a first side and an
opposite second side, and a reinforcing layer having a first side and an opposite second side,
wherein the first side of the anchoring layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing
layer, and further wherein the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the second
side of the anchoring layer of the composite reinforcing film;
a first adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam; and
a second adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the
composite reinforcing film.
2. The tape of claim 1, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a
thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils (about 125 to about 1500 micrometers).
3. The tape of claim 1, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a
thickness of about 12 to about 17 mils (about 300 to about 425 micrometers).
4. The tape of claim 1, wherein the foam is open-celled.
5. The tape of claim 1, wherein the anchoring layer is selected from the group
consisting of polyvinylidene chloride, polyurethane, copolyester, and nylon, and the
reinforcing layer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate,
polybutylene terephthalate, polyvinyl, polycarbonate, and polyetherimide.
6. The tape of claim 1, wherein the anchoring layer comprises polyvinylidene
chloride and the reinforcing layer comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

7. The tape of claim 1, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the anchoring layer and the reinforcing layer.
8. The tape of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing layer is acid etched.
9. The tape of claim 1, further comprising a primer layer between the first adhesive and the polyurethane foam.
10. The tape of claim 1, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer.
11. The tape of claim 10, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.
12. The tape of claim 11, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.
13. A foam cushion tape for flexographic printing, comprising
a compressible, open-celled polyurethane foam layer having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils (about 125 to about 1500 micrometers);
a composite reinforcing film layer configured to reinforce the compressible foam layer, and comprising an anchoring layer having a first side and an opposite second side, and a

reinforcing layer having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the first side of the anchoring layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing layer, and further wherein

the anchoring layer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, nylon, copolyester, and polyvinylidene chloride, and the reinforcing layer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyvinyl, polycarbonate, and polyetherimide, and further wherein

the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the anchoring layer of the composite reinforcing film;

a first pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam; and

a second pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film.

14. The tape of claim 13, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer.

15. The tape of claim 14, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.

16. The tape of claim 15, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.

17. A foam cushion tape for flexographic printing, comprising
a compressible, open-celled polyurethane foam layer having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils;
a composite reinforcing film comprising a polyvinylidene fluoride anchoring layer having a first side and a second side, and a polyethylene terephthalate reinforcing layer having a first side and a second side wherein the first side of the anchoring layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing layer, and further wherein the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the first side of the anchoring layer of the composite reinforcing film;
a first pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam; and
a second pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film.

18. The tape of claim 17, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.

19. The tape of claim 18, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.

20-33. (Cancelled)

34. The tape of claim 1, wherein the anchoring layer is a polyvinylidene chloride or a copolyester and the reinforcing layer is a polyethylene terephthalate or polybutylene terephthalate.

35. The tape of claim 34, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the anchoring layer and the reinforcing layer.

36. The tape of claim 13, wherein the anchoring layer is a polyvinylidene chloride or a copolyester and the reinforcing layer is a polyethylene terephthalate or polybutylene terephthalate.

37. The tape of claim 36, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the anchoring layer and the reinforcing layer.

X. APPENDIX B: PENDING CLAIMS ON APPEAL

1. A foam cushion tape, comprising
a compressible polyurethane foam layer configured for flexographic printing and having a first side and an opposite second side;
a composite reinforcing film comprising an anchoring layer having a first side and an opposite second side, and a reinforcing layer having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the first side of the anchoring layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing layer, and further wherein the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the second side of the anchoring layer of the composite reinforcing film;
a first adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam; and
a second adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film.
2. The tape of claim 1, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils (about 125 to about 1500 micrometers).
3. The tape of claim 1, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 12 to about 17 mils (about 300 to about 425 micrometers).
4. The tape of claim 1, wherein the foam is open-celled.
5. The tape of claim 1, wherein the anchoring layer is selected from the group consisting of polyvinylidene chloride, polyurethane, copolyester, and nylon, and the reinforcing layer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyvinyl, polycarbonate, and polyetherimide.
6. The tape of claim 1, wherein the anchoring layer comprises polyvinylidene chloride and the reinforcing layer comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

7. The tape of claim 1, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the anchoring layer and the reinforcing layer.

8. The tape of claim 1, wherein the reinforcing layer is acid etched.

9. The tape of claim 1, further comprising a primer layer between the first adhesive and the polyurethane foam.

10. The tape of claim 1, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer.

11. The tape of claim 10, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.

12. The tape of claim 11, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.

13. A foam cushion tape, comprising
a compressible, open-celled polyurethane foam layer configured for flexographic printing and having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils (about 125 to about 1500 micrometers);

a composite reinforcing film layer configured to reinforce the compressible foam layer, and comprising an anchoring layer having a first side and an opposite second side, and a reinforcing layer having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the first side of the anchoring layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing layer, and further wherein

the anchoring layer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, nylon, copolyester, and polyvinylidene chloride, and the reinforcing layer is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polyvinyl, polycarbonate, and polyetherimide, and further wherein

the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the anchoring layer of the composite reinforcing film;

a first pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam; and

a second pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film.

14. The tape of claim 13, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer.

15. The tape of claim 14, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.

16. The tape of claim 15, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.

17. A foam cushion tape, comprising

- a compressible, open-celled polyurethane foam layer configured for flexographic printing and having a first side and an opposite second side, wherein the compressible polyurethane foam has a thickness of about 5 to about 60 mils;
- a composite reinforcing film comprising a polyvinylidene fluoride anchoring layer having a first side and a second side, and a polyethylene terephthalate reinforcing layer having a first side and a second side wherein the first side of the anchoring layer is disposed on the first side of the reinforcing layer, and further wherein the second side of the polyurethane foam is disposed on the first side of the anchoring layer of the composite reinforcing film;
- a first pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the first side of the compressible polyurethane foam; and
- a second pressure sensitive adhesive disposed on the second side of the reinforcing layer of the composite reinforcing film.

18. The tape of claim 17, further comprising a release layer disposed on a side of the second adhesive layer opposite to the reinforcing layer, wherein the release layer comprises a release coating, an intermediate layer, and a liner, wherein the release coating is disposed on the second adhesive layer on a side opposite to the reinforcing layer, the intermediate layer is disposed on the release coating on a side opposite to the second adhesive layer, and the liner is disposed on the intermediate layer on a side opposite to the release coating.

19. The tape of claim 18, wherein the release coating further comprises a second intermediate layer disposed on the liner on a side opposite to the intermediate layer, and a second release coating disposed on the second intermediate layer on a side opposite to the liner.

34. The tape of claim 1, wherein the anchoring layer is a polyvinylidene chloride or a copolyester and the reinforcing layer is a polyethylene terephthalate or polybutylene terephthalate.

35. The tape of claim 34, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the anchoring layer and the reinforcing layer.

36. The tape of claim 13, wherein the anchoring layer is a polyvinylidene chloride or a copolyester and the reinforcing layer is a polyethylene terephthalate or polybutylene terephthalate.

37. The tape of claim 36, wherein the composite reinforcing film is formed by co-extrusion of the anchoring layer and the reinforcing layer.